

What is claimed is:

1. An interactive speech interface unit comprising speech recognition means for recognizing input speech of user utterance and converting the recognized input speech into a character string, input statement analysis means for analyzing the character string and converting the analyzed character string into semantic representation, interactive control means for controlling flow of an interactive status and accessing an application, output statement generation means for generating an intermediate language to be outputted to the user, speech generation means for converting the intermediate language into speech and outputting the speech, and application interface means for accessing the application using the semantic representation outputted from the interactive control means;

wherein the interactive control means puts series of interactive sequences having calling relations together in a plurality of interactive tasks in association with relations and includes an interactive task hierarchical data base for storing the interactive tasks in a hierarchical structure.

2. The interactive speech interface unit according to Claim 1, wherein lower interactive tasks in the hierarchical structure are prepared to include all sub-interactive sequences which are needed for an upper interactive task.

3. The interactive speech interface unit according to Claim 1, further comprising interactive task chaining means for extracting an upper/lower chain of the interactive tasks during execution of a dialog and dynamically switching interactive sequences.

4. The interactive speech interface unit according to Claim 1, wherein the interactive control means further comprises a keyword/bookmark catalog interactive sequence storage means, a keyword/bookmark storage means, a user interactive sequence catalog interactive sequence storage means, and a user interactive sequence storage means, whereby catalog functions of the interactive sequences by a user are added so as to change flow of a dialog by the user.

5. The interactive speech interface unit according to Claim 4, wherein the interactive control means receives semantic representation including recognized character string from the input statement analysis means, deciding as to whether a keyword corresponding to a present

interactive status is included in the recognized character string, and adding an interactive sequence using the keyword if the keyword is included in the recognized character string.

- 5 6. The interactive speech interface unit according to Claim 3, wherein the switching of the interactive sequences is implemented by describing and rewriting the interactive sequence as an action of an interactive procedure.

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